Divisions under South-West Railway Zone

1598. SHRI K. RAHMN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the railway divisions under the South-West Railway Zone at Bangalore;

(b) whether the Zone has started functioning, if so, whether orders bifurcating the divisions have been issued; and

(c) how much time it will take for the Zone to become fully functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) The detailed territorial jurisdiction of the South-Western Zone has not yet been finalised. The inaugural function for the South-Western Railway Zone at Bangalore was held on 1.11.96.

(c) Setting up of zones is expected to be completed in about sixty months.

Rescheduling the Timing of Hirakud Express

1599. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the agitation (Rail Roko) in the Western part of Orissa demanding rescheduling the timing of Hirakud Express;

(b) whether Government are proposing to change the timing; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. There was a Rail Roko agitation on 17.11.96 at Sambalpur Railway station demanding restoration of earlier timings of departure from Sambalpur and arrival at Nizamuddin of Train No. 8301/8302 Sambalpur-Nizamuddin Hirakud Express.

(b) and (c) Revision of timings of Hirakud Express is under examination of the Railway Administration and action as found feasible and justified will be taken.

Number of Students in Primary Schools

1600. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of students in a primary school at present;

(b) whether Government have any plan to increase the number of students in primary schools;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of additional class-rooms needed to be constructed to reach the target of full literacy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVEOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) The average number of students in a primary school varies considerably between States and among urban and rural areas. According to the available information, there were 10.97 crore children enrolled in 5.90 lakh primary schools in the country in 1995-96.

(b) to (d) The promotion and expension of primary education is mainly the responsibility of State Governments. Their Annual Plans include proposals for increasing enrolment in primary schools and construction of additional classrooms.

Machinery to check arbitrary functioning of Public Schools

1601. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minsiter of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any machinery to control the Public Schools and to redress the grievances of the parent as these schools are functioning arbitrarily;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, by when such a machinery is likely to be set-up?